

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): ~~An~~ A distributed audio system including at least one speaker, a power supply and, intermediate said power supply and at least one speaker there is provided an amplifier arrangement comprising an audio input, an audio output, a switching regulator and a switching amplifier, wherein the switching regulator is arranged to receive a variable DC electrical input from a the power supply and output a substantially constant voltage to the switching amplifier, said power supply being arranged remotely of said amplifier arrangement and wherein said system is configured so that the said power supply is connected to a plurality of said amplifier arrangements via respective electrical cables.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The ~~amplifier arrangement~~ audio system according to claim 1, wherein the switching amplifier is a digital amplifier.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The ~~amplifier arrangement~~ audio system according to claim 2, wherein the switching amplifier is a class D digital amplifier with associated H-bridge circuit on the output stage.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The ~~amplifier arrangement~~ audio system according to claim 2, wherein the circuitry of either the switching regulator and/or the switching amplifier is constructed of discrete components.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The ~~amplifier arrangement~~ audio system according to claim 4, wherein the switching amplifier processes at least two channels of audio input.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The ~~amplifier arrangement~~ audio system according to claim 5, further including an auxiliary control device, e.g. to control the audio output volume.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The ~~amplifier arrangement~~ audio system according to claim 6, wherein the switching regulator and the switching amplifier are housed in a single housing.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The ~~distributed audio installation system~~ according to claim 1, wherein the power supply is connectable to each of the amplifier arrangement via a cable which varies in length between a preselected maximum e.g. 50m, and a preselected minimum, e.g. 1m.

Claims 9-10 (Cancelled).